Empire

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Congratulations Students of the Month! Jessica Vogt, Alyssa Evans, Lori Miller, and Carl Ricco

MAY—Jessica is passionate about her accounting and always looks for a challenge to solve. She is a dedicated student who is not afraid to ask thoughtful questions and contribute comments during class. Jessica is knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and inspires others to join in class discussions and activities. She has served as president of the IMA student chapter organizing and participating in many fundraisers and outreach programs such as VITA and Bite of Reality.

JUNE—Aly is an all-around excellent student. She seeks out volunteer opportunities, and she helps whenever she sees an opening to do so. She served on the planning committee for an Empire-hosted blood drive this summer. Aly is a team captain in clinical class, and this position suits her as she is a natural leader. She arrives early and is ready to work, and she often stays late to ensure everything is properly put away. She always goes above and beyond what is asked of her. JULY—Lori is a very motivated and committed accounting student. She completes all assignments with diligent attention to detail. Lori's positive attitude overcomes a nightly commute from Ukiah to achieve high attendance. She is helpful, caring, a problem solver for her peers, and also has a terrific sense of humor. Lori attends the IMA student chapter meetings and has been a driving force in the chapter's

Writes Back

fundraising events.

AUGUST—Carl is an enthusiastic participant in any classroom activity. He is outspoken while being respectful and professional to faculty and peers. Carl models and encourages high-quality work and good peer relations. He is a



Medical Student Mentor and has just joined the board of MASC as the Membership Chairman.

We Got the Job!

Accounting

Erica Briceno Dominique Gaitan Jessica Vogt Amy Wilkinson

Business

Heather Bailey Josue Ibarra Gabriela Rivas Silva

Information Technology

Anthony Lewis Andy Solorio Flores Shane Whitman

Legal

Kimberly Jenkins

Roni & Co. United Way of the Wine Country WorkSheets Financial Dutton Estate Winery

M.A. Silva USA AppleOne Employment Services Empire College

dmi Networking, Inc.

One Legal

dmi Networking, Inc. V&R Solutions Luther Burbank Savings Bookkeeper Assistant Accounting Specialist Accounting Assistant Accounting Assistant

Administrative Support Administrative Assistant Administrative Assistant–Front Desk

IT Support IT Help Desk Technician Help Desk Analyst

Document Specialist I

Turn to Jobs! ... Page 10

The School of Law In Brief

Class of 2019 Law School Graduation

Hon. Allan Hardcastle, California Superior Court Judge for Sonoma County and Professor of Evidence, delivered the commencement address at Empire College School of Law's graduation ceremony on Sunday, June 2, 2019, at the Mary Agatha Furth Center in Windsor. Juris Doctor degrees were conferred upon 22 graduates of the four-year evening law program, and 23 graduates received Master of Legal Studies degrees.

Torts Professor Joseph Stogner addressed the graduating class on behalf of the School of Law's faculty. Christopher Van Nuys (photo right), who graduated Magna Cum Laude, delivered the valedictory address.

Scholastic Achievement Awards were provided to six honors graduates by several local law firms: Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery; Bluestone Zunino & Hamilton, LLP; Carle, Mackie, Power & Ross, LLP; Johnston Thomas, Attorneys at Law, PC; Law Offices of Anderson Zeigler; Law Office of Andrew Martinez; Law Offices of Clement, Fitzpatrick & Kenworthy, Inc.; Law Office of Joseph C. Tinney;

Law Office of Paul Lozada; Perry, Johnson, Anderson, Miller & Moskowitz, LLP; Smith Dollar, PC; and Spaulding, McCullough & Tansil LLP. We appreciate the support of these law firms and others in the legal community who provide opportunities for Empire law students to gain experience through clerkships and clinical education.

Congratulations graduates!

Alumni Mentorship Program

The Board of Directors of the Empire School of Law Alumni Association and Empire College's Dean, Brian Purtill, are excited to announce the creation of a new program.

Law school alumni are creating a directory of graduates available to speak with potential, current, and former students of Empire Law. This mentor program will connect students with alumni to discuss topics ranging from law school/life balance issues, academic advising, student law clerking jobs and potential future employment. We expect this program will be of great value to anyone contemplating law school, to the student struggling to manage the rigors of a demanding evening program, and/or to the new attorney seeking a mentor.

Many of our graduates benefited from others providing such kindnesses and now they want to pay it forward. Other California Accredited Law Schools (CALS) are exploring the use of mentor programs for their students, too, and this is just another example of Empire's outstanding leadership among CALS.

Excellence in Education Award Winner – Professor Constance Burtnett

Professor Constance Burtnett is Empire Law School's 2019 nominee and recipient of the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber Excellence in Education Award in the 4-year college division. Constance Burtnett is a life-long learner and a Santa Rosa attorney practicing in family law, criminal defense, and appellate advocacy. She teaches Empire's Moot Court class, where she teaches students not only to think like a lawyer, but to act like one, too. Her students learn to write appellate briefs and present oral arguments. Professor Burtnett truly cares about her students' successes. She greatly enhances not just the quality of their legal education, but their ability to hit the ground running as practicing attorneys when they pass the bar. We are very proud of her dedication and accomplishments.

Law School Informational Seminar ... Tell a Friend!

An informational seminar will be held Thursday, September 12th from 6:30-8pm at the Empire College campus. Featured alumni speakers will be Diane Aqui, Andrew Conway,

and Caitlin van Loben Sels. They will discuss their experience at Empire and in the practice of law, and take questions from prospective law students.

To learn more about the speakers' law careers, visit law.empcol.edu/law-seminar. To reserve your seat, call the Law Admissions Office at 707-546-4000 or email LawAdmissions@empirecollege.com to request a visit and to obtain further information. Guests are welcome.











More graduation photos ... page 12



Paralegal Department News

Visit to Superior Court Criminal Division and the County Law Library

Legal Research students went on a field trip to the Sonoma County Law Library for a scavenger hunt! Students got to meet the library staff and were introduced to the valuable resources available in the Law Library.

Students in the new Criminal Law class went on a field trip to the Sonoma County Superior Court-Criminal Division. Students were able to see the criminal process in practice while they listened in on arraignments and change of pleas. Students even got to meet Judge Cerena Wong!

Empire Legal Students Join the Sonoma County Bar Association

Empire Legal Students are now members of the Paralegal and Legal Support Section of the Sonoma County Bar Association. Noemi Ornelas is Empire's Student Representative with the Paralegal and Legal Support Section. ELSA (Empire Legal Student Association) is excited for all of the networking opportunities available for students.

ELSA Welcome Lunch

ELSA hosted a welcome lunch for all new day legal students and cookies and coffee for all night legal students. 🔺

IN BRIEF (continued)

"SHAC" Clinic Undergoes Name Change to "Family Law Clinic"

Empire's Family Law Clinic (formerly called Self-Help Access Center-SHAC) expanded its services years ago and began its collaboration with the Superior Court of Sonoma County. The new name is more indicative of the majority of the work undertaken in the clinic. The Family Law Clinic assists self-representing litigants by referral from the Family Law and Civil Sonoma County Courts.

Where Is Dean Purtill?

Where might you see Dean Purtill, other than on campus meeting with staff, students, and faculty? In his first year on the job he has been representing Empire College School of Law widely around the county and state. He has spoken with leadership teams at SSU, SRJC and the County of Sonoma about Empire's programs and clinics, sharing how the law school is such a key continuing education resource for our community. He's attended all Committee of Bar Examiners (CBE) meetings in both San Francisco and Los Angeles since being selected to the CBE's CSBARS committee, where he represents issues important to Empire and other CALS. As Dean of Empire Law School, he is on the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Bar Association, where he has joined the newly created Diversity Task Force, formed to encourage members of our diverse populations to both become lawyers and to be more involved in the legal community if they already are lawyers. All this and Iron Man too, and this is just his one-year anniversary!

Faculty News

- · Lawrence Mills, JAMS | Mediator and Arbitrator, will teach the Alternative Dispute Resolution and Mediation elective this fall.
- · Audrey Smith, Esq. will be teaching Remedies. She comes to us as an extremely experienced Professor of Law with John F. Kennedy University College of Law, Pleasant Hill, where she was Core Faculty / Associate Professor and Director, Legal Research and Writing Program.
- · Retired California Court of Appeals Justice Daniel M. Hanlon and former Empire College Law Professor, is returning to teach Evidence.
- · Shawn Bunyard, Esq., Empire class of 2008 will be leading the Family Law Clinic formerly called Self-Help Access Center (SHAC). He will alternate semesters with Prof. Anthony Zunino.
- · Bruce Mitteldorf has retired from teaching the MBE portion of the Bar Exam Preparation course we offer; thank you for all your wonderful service, Professor Mitteldorf! See In Brief ... page 10





The #EmpireLaw 2019 Iron Man team: Dean Purtill (swimming), Richard Horrell (cycling), and Kristin Whalley (running).





An Empire College softball team? Yep! For seven years, Empire faculty, staff, and alumni from the Schools of Business and Law have fielded a team through the Santa Rosa Parks & Recreation Department. They do pretty well, too!

News from the Business Administration Department

Excellence in Education Award Winner – Carl Oeschger

Carl Oeschger is Empire College's 2019 nominee and recipient of the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber Excellence in Education Award in the 2-year college division. A U.S. Army Veteran, life-long learner, and college educator for over 20 years, Carl has a caring and supportive teaching style that makes him an exemplary educator. He makes a point of knowing every student in his Career Transitions class during their first quarter, getting to know their goals and challenges and helping them adjust to the pace and rigors of college classes with personal conversations and feedback. Carl is there for students at the finish line as well, attending graduation ceremonies to greet and congratulate our celebrating students. Congratulations, Carl, on this well-deserved recognition and honor!



Meet Your Business Department Student Mentors: Hazra Antonio and Ashley Beltran

Hazra was born and raised in Fiji Islands. She completed her GED through the Empire

College Foundation in February 2018 and is currently enrolled in the Specialized Associate Degree in Business program. Before coming to California, she worked in several tourism companies in Fiji, beginning her career as a Reservations Agent to building her own Online Travel Agency. Going back to school was always on her mind ever since her husband graduated from Empire's IT program in 2015.

Currently Hazra works for UPS as a Supervisor, and by attending Empire College will improve her knowledge in Business and IT which will open more doors and opportunities toward her career.

Ashley started going to Empire College in September of 2018, in pursuit of an Accounting degree. After spending quite a bit of time in the Accounting program, she decided to change her major and get a degree in Business which was a good choice for her. Her passion for the business world has grown over the years, especially for the marketing/ advertising side of the business. "With the support of the dedicated teachers here at Empire, I have come out of my shell as a student, and I really look forward to all the experiences and knowledge I will gain throughout my program here at Empire," says Ashley.

After she graduates from Empire College, Ashley would like to work in advertising/marketing around the Bay Area, having gained the confidence that she will continue to progress as a student and a leader.



Empire College Bruisers 2019

Accounting Department News

IMA Student Chapter Events

From nacho and pizza fundraisers for the benefit of Bite of Reality to guest speakers and meet-and-greets, the IMA Student Chapter is the most active student organization on campus. In addition to philanthropy, their meetings focus on member recognition (most recently with appreciation certificates from the Internal Revenue Service and Franchise Tax Board, photo bottom left) and scholarships. Congratulations to Bobbie Jean Henderson, Lori Miller, Juan Valdez, and Jessica Vasquez, who were awarded scholarships from the IMA parent chapter! (See photos below right.)

During the past few months, guest speakers from Accountemps and accounting alumna Elizabeth Meydenbauer (photo at right) gave presentations on career opportunities in the accounting field. Elizabeth is a Payroll & Accounting Specialist with 4Cs of Sonoma County. She shared her experiences with training, problem solving, software utilization, and audit preparations required for her job.

Introducing Jessica Vasquez, Accounting Student Mentor



system this time," said Jessica.

Jessica always wanted to go to college and thought she wanted to pursue other fields of study, but she was never set on one thing. She has always been good with numbers and felt like the accounting program fit her. In 2012, she enrolled in an accounting diploma program. Says Jessica, "Unfortunately, I had a lot of 'life' get in my way of finishing strong like I had planned."

She came back at the end of October 2018 and planned to just retake some core classes and get her certifications. With all but one certification which she was currently working on, she decided to continue on and finish with an Associate's Degree. "I am so excited about my time here now and what I can contribute. I have been enjoying it and doing very well now that I have a strong support



Accounting Students Achieve Certifications

Congratulations to the following Accounting students who recently passed certifications:

Guadalupe Aguilera Lopez: Quickbooks Erica Briceno: Payroll Jessica Fairfield: Excel Bobbie Jean Henderson: Quickbooks Christina Rivera: Payroll Jessica Vasquez: Excel and Quickbooks Jessica Vogt: Bookkeeping Deanna Wassana: Payroll LeDawn Wilson: Bookkeeping ▲





Medical Department News

It's Volunteer Season!

Below is a partial list of the events you will find Empire College medical students and faculty volunteering this season.

- Thursday, August 15, 11am-3pm Empire College Blood Drive AND River Rock Casino Employee Wellness Fair (RBS & BP)
- 8/15, 9/19, 10/16 Monthly Screening Clinic (RBS & BP) at Sebastopol Senior Center
- September 22 Heart Walk Sonoma County, assisting Northern California Medical Associates with capillary puncture
- October 2-4 Sutter Health's Cat Walk for a Cure Event
- October 9 City of Santa Rosa Employee Benefits Fair (RBS & BP)
- October 22-23 North Coast Builder's Exchange Health Fair (BP)
- Ongoing Flu Shot Clinics now through year-end

Introducing Medical Student Mentor Carl Ricco

After becoming a single dad of two small children, Carl decided to enroll in the Medical Assistant program at Empire College in February 2019. "I wanted to be a good role model and show my kids that it's never too late to follow your passion and dreams," shared Carl.

Carl's background has been in playing sports, personal training, and coaching soccer. He has always been fascinated about the medical field. Says Carl, "I am enjoying my experience being at Empire. I've met some very knowledgeable and friendly teachers and staff, as well as meeting some wonderful new friends. I am very excited and honored to be a student mentor for the Medical program."











The blood drive at Empire College was a huge success! Not only was every appointment slot pre-booked, but volunteer donors could not be accommodated. Empire's heart for the community always shines through!

Medical Skills Certifications

Congratulations to our new Certified Medical Assistants, Office Assistants, and Phlebotomy Technicians and to those who have passed skills certifications in CPR, injections, EKG, phlebotomy, and more!

CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Kimberly Adams Leah Balasch Katie Conzelman Mariah Crespo Calista Davis Jazmine Dedrick Alyssa Evans Carmen Garcia Atanacia Jimenez Melissa Laws Rebecca Lowry Haley Marino Jennifer Palominos Angela Ramos Nijahia Sanchez Stephanie Santiago Ashley Schwartz Sonia Tapia

CERTIFIED MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANTS James Curtis Jasmine Miranda-Ferrari

CERTIFIED PHLEBOTOMY **TECHNICIANS** Eloisa Ambriz Brenna Bjornestad Mikaela Brunecker Alicia Coffrini Selena Cole Katie Conzelman Carmen Garcia Banesa Garcia Heredia Nikki Giambattista Danira Hernandez Angelica Long Rebecca Lowry April Meixsell Angela Ramos Javier Rosas Nijahia Sanchez Lindsay Shepley Alyssa Solberg Rebekah Turknett Jennifer Whitright Sarah Williams





Above: River Rock Casino Employee Wellness Fair

Left: What's a blood drive without some reviving treats?!

Injection, EKG, phlebotomy, and/or urinalysis skills class certifications: Jessica Alice Rebeca Ayala Arellano Audrey Blank Kayla Blyleven Katie Conzelman Mariah Crespo Jazmine Dedrick Krista Dutcher Alyssa Evans Madison Fiorillo Rhiannon Fitzpatrick Gina Haake Gisell Hernandez Diana Johnson Toshianna Jones Venneranda Kirabo Chrystalyn Kober Victoria Lacey Rebecca Lowry Alondra Machuca Salmeron Haley Marino Jenyfer Martinez-Bueno Vanessa Martinez Hernandez Lilian Mbua Paulette Miller Andrea Neace Graciela Ponce Lucy Purdom Azizeh Radwan Norma Robles Nijahia Sanchez Stephanie Santiago Eleanor Sapien Ashley Schwartz Annabell Sisouvanh Viviana Suarez Hernandez Christsie Townsend Shekainah Valerio Victoria Vincent





Save the Date! CYBERSECURITY MIXER Thursday, October 3 3-6pm @ Empire College

Sonoma County Community Event about the current landscape, challenges and solutions involving cybersecurity in 2019.

Information Technology Department News

Meet Anthony Adams and Jacob Rash, IT Student Mentors

Anthony is enrolled in the Specialized Associate Degree program with a focus and concentration on security. He came to Empire College to "find a career where he can continually develop his organization and himself." Prior to coming to Empire College, Anthony was a cook and a manager, and over time he realized that he wanted to be in an environment with likeminded individuals who are passionate about what they do.

Says Anthony, "If you ever have any questions or just want to talk, do not hesitate to come to me. We are all on this journey together. Whether you are in the medical program, business program, law program, or IT program, you can always come to me. My last bit of advice would be to remember what motivated you to come to Empire in the first place, and use that as a constant motivation."

Jacob has been a student at Empire College for almost a year and has enjoyed learning something that will help in the future. He has spent seven years out in the field learning hands-on from his family. He chose to come to Empire to further his knowledge and become a certified technician. He is on his way, having achieved both his CompTIA A+ and Net+ certifications. Jacob is now studying to get his MCSA certification in Microsoft as well.

Jacob says he is always willing to help people who may not understand as much in the IT field. He strives to be the best student he can be and has learned a lot from all of his instructors in the IT department. "I really look forward to what my future has in store for me and thank everyone I have met along the way at Empire for showing me that anything is possible," says Anthony.

Instructors Who Inspire

Phil Aldrich, Brandan Merrick, and Ryan Donham have been a big influence on why I chose the IT industry as well as keeping me focused on my end goal. I want to have as many certifications as Empire College offers to students.

~ Jacob Rash

I've only had Marc Hunter for a couple weeks now, and he has put us all to work. He has given us so many outlets to learn and is teaching us so much at the same time. I've grabbed so much already from his class it's made me want to do more and switch to the full degree program. He really brings in a lot of perspective for what we need to be studying and how much we need to do. He really pushes his students to succeed.

IT Students Achieving Industry Certifications

Congratulations to the following students who recently passed certification exams. CompTIA A+: Anthony Adams, Raymundo Albor Villagomez, Guillermo Chiquet, Ryan Katz, Fernando Lugo, Andre Ortiz, Mark Parrish and Benjamin Ryder Network+: Bruno Figerola Microsoft Designing and Implementing a Server Infrastructure and Cisco Interconnecting Networking Devices Part 1:

Microsoft Designing and Implementing a Server Infrastructure and Cisco Interconnecting Networking Devices Part 1: Blake Buchanan

CompTIA Cybersecurity Analyst (CySA+) and CompTIA PenTest+: Matthew Lyall.



Graduation ... a Celebration of Success

Commencement Exercises were held for graduates of the Business School at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts on Monday evening, June 24, 2019.

Sonoma County Supervisor Lynda Hopkins delivered the commencement address to the graduates. Blake Buchanan, an honors graduate from the Specialized Associate Degree – Information Technology program, spoke on behalf of the graduating class, and medical instructor Ed Carrithers offered remarks from the Empire College faculty.

Congratulations to all graduates on your hard work and accomplishments. You did it! 🔺













Congratulations to medical assisting student Kristina McGunagle, 2019 recipient of the Kaiser Permanente Scholarship!

JOBS! (a

• (continued from page 1)

Medical

Eloisa Ambriz Oregon Lisa Arciga Coria Samson Asgedom Leah Balasch Yedmi Ballesteros Brenna Bjornestad Jordan Burger Ashley Cardenas Kelly Carrero-Sanchez Mariah Crespo James Curtis Calista Davis Nansi De La Torre Maria Diaz Julisa Dominguez Debra Joseph Theresa Kelley Vanessa Lopez Munoz Alycia Smith Leslie Valdez Herrera

NCMA

Siyan Clinical Corp. Evolve Restorative Center Prima Medical Group West County Health Centers Evolve Restorative Center California Orthopedics & Spine Dr. Moses Goldberg/Integrative Medical Sutter Health Evolve Restorative Center Audiology Associates Kaiser Permanente Dr. John Hollander Northern CA Medical Associates Sutter Health Northern CA Medical Associates Sutter Health Santa Rosa Community Health Redwood Empire Dermatology Santa Rosa Orthopaedics

Medical Assistant Medical Receptionist Billing Specialist/Office Manager Medical Assistant Medical Assistant **Clinical** Coordinator Medical Assistant Medical Assistant Medical Assistant Clinical Coordinator Front Office Professional Medical Assistant Medical Assistant Patient Service Rep Medical Assistant Medical Receptionist Medical Assistant Medical Assistant Medical Assistant Medical Assistant 🔺





3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Empire College Campus

Swearing In New Attorneys

Sonoma County Superior Court Judge Ornell welcomed new attorneys in a local swearing-in ceremony in June. Emilia Carbajal and Matt Defer were surrounded by classmates, friends and family as they took their oaths and became Counselors at Law. Congratulations once again. ▲



Honor Roll

Students listed have achieved President's or Dean's Honors as of August 1, 2019.

PRESIDENT'S HONORS: 3.85-4.0 cumulative GPA & no Incomplete or F grades DEAN'S HONORS: 3.45-3.84 cumulative GPA, no I or F grades

President's Honors

Anthony Adams Karin Abramo Hazra Antonio Jaqualine Benazouz Audrey Blank Kayla Blyleven Tara Bowers Erica Briceno Amy Brinkel Blake Buchanan Yaquelin Buenrostro Castellanos Susana Bustamante Ana Campuzano Perez Claire Clickner James Curtis Monica D'Arrigo Restrepo Calista Davis Jazmine Dedrick Maria Diaz Rodriguez Krista Dutcher Iridiana Espinoza Jessica Fairfield Araceli Garcia Carillo Shavon Gilroy Isaac Gomez Veronica Gonzales Gina Haake Ryan Howard Theresa Kelley Robert Kinlin Josephine Landen Brendan Lappert Victoria Lebowitz Rebecca Lowry Matthew Lyall Alondra Machuca Salmeron Haley Marino Kristina McGunagle

Adriana Miramontes Jasmin Miranda Ferrari Suman Nepal Andre Ortiz Lucy Purdom Azizeh Radwan Chaila Richards Christina Rivera Elicelda Rivera Norma Robles Hamidah Salzmann **Eleanor** Sapien Ashley Schwartz Eva Smith Molly Sutherland Adrienne Tapparo Catarina Thrasher Christie Townsend Iuan Valdez Diana van Royen Alicia Webb-Keith

Dean's Honors

Jessica Alice Christina Ayala Rebeca Ayala Arellano Caitlin Boyd Kathy Cochran Katie Conzelman Mariah Crespo Dulce De Jesus Rosario Diaz Iniguez Tasha Dunlap Lillian Dutcher Alyssa Evans Bruno Figarola Rhiannon Fitzpatrick Carmen Garcia Jose Gonzalez Nicolas Julie Greenhow Bobbie Jean Henderson Maria Hernandez Reyes Rocio Inocencio Ochoa Diana Johnson Kasey Kenny Venneranda Kirabo Victoria Lacev Luisa Mariscal Lopez Vanessa Martinez Hernandez

Kathryne Maynard Dominique Molina Dominguez Andrea Neace Aida Oceguera Noemi Ornelas Lesbeth Ortiz Leanne O'Sullivan Kevin Pangan Jacob Rash Stephanie Raymond Carl Ricco Marita Rodriguez Benjamin Ryder Nijahia Sanchez Alyssa Segobiano Annabell Sisouvanh Trisha Stewart Iennifer Tamba Veitinia Temo Shekainah Valerio Angelica Vigil Jessica Vogt Shane Whitman Amy Wilkinson Melissa Woltering

Student Mentors are available to lend their support.

Visit Lillian and Krista in the Tutoring Center (Room 219) for help with most subject areas.

Monday-Thursday 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. 2:15 to 5:00 p.m.





Congrats to the Law School Class of 2019!

This year's graduating class included our first father/son graduates, Shawn and Jake Dolan (photo left).

See more Law School graduation news on page 3.

See Business School graduation news on page 9.









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